



June 27, 2011

To Interested Persons:

RE: Temporary Deferral of the Review of Feasibility Studies for Proposed Prelicensure Registered Nursing Programs

On June 15, 2011, the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) announced that it is temporarily deferring the process of accepting and reviewing Feasibility Studies for proposed prelicensure Registered Nursing programs. This action is necessary because of the high number of existing and new RN programs statewide requiring monitoring and the severe shortage of BRN Nursing Education Consultants (NEC). Currently, the BRN has 148 prelicensure programs that must be reviewed and monitored by the NECs.

To address this serious problem, the BRN is working diligently to obtain an exemption to the statewide hiring freeze to hire NECs.

In order for RNs to be competently prepared to provide quality patient care, they must have a quality education. Since protection of the public is the highest priority for the BRN, it protects the health and safety of consumers by promoting quality registered nursing care through the approval of nursing education programs. The NECs meet this priority by monitoring and reviewing (new and existing) nursing programs to ensure that the programs are implementing quality educational programs that meet the educational standards and regulations as specified in the Nursing practice Act.

As a result of this announcement, all Feasibility Studies received at the BRN office after June 15, 2011 will be deferred until the NEC staffing is able to accept new applications. This will allow the applying institution to update time sensitive data in the Feasibility Studies and resubmit them when the BRN reinstitutes the review process.

Feasibility Studies received at the BRN office prior to the June 15, 2011 announcement will be reviewed and the institutions will be notified of the outcome of this review. However, these Feasibility Studies will not be placed on the Education Licensing Committee agenda until Nursing Education Consultant staffing is adequate.

The BRN will notify all affected institutions immediately upon reinstitution of the review process for Feasibility Studies.

I trust this information is helpful. Please be assured that the BRN is working to resolve this serious problem as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Board of Registered Nursing

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